

Chieftain

50 YEARS


VOLUME 54, NUMBER 6

ITAWAMBA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

APRIL 28, 2025



Officials from the Tennessee Valley Authority join Itawamba Community College representatives for a ceremonial ribbon cutting by President Dr. Jay Allen for the grand opening of ICC's planetarium at the Fulton Campus.

TVA, ICC officials formally open planetarium

Staff Reports

Officials from the Tennessee Valley Authority joined Itawamba Community College representatives for a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the grand opening of its planetarium, Apr. 10, at the Fulton Campus.

The planetarium is currently located in the John S. Crubaugh Education Building, but plans are being developed to make it mobile, according to Heather McCormick, mathematics division chair and one of three STEM sponsors, who are leading the project.

"We are extremely grateful to TVA for their generous donations which have made the planetarium possible," McCormick said. "In addition, TVA's

generosity has given our students research and leadership opportunities as they prepared the narration for the planetarium shows. We are proud of our students and their hard work." They include Sara Davis of Smithville, Allyson Johnson of Nettleton, Lawson Laird of Guntown and Remington Reed of Carthage whose research material and written narration scripts for the planetarium disks allows four available shows including Northern Hemisphere with Constellations, Aurora Borealis, Day Side Earth and Moon and Warped Andromeda.

The planetarium as well as a weather balloon experiment were made possible by a \$15,000 contribu-

tion from TVA to benefit ICC's School of STEM. Following the announcement in March 2024, Dr. Jada Mills, Natural Science Division chair and STEM sponsor, said that the planetarium opportunity will include STEM Week, afternoon planetarium sessions and is an exceptional recruiting tool for the School of STEM. "We hope to host community STEM events and allow our students to volunteer, narrate and be part of this exhibit. A large part is sparking an interest in STEM at all age levels."

The mobile planetarium will be available to visit local elementary schools on Fridays beginning this fall.

Additional guests invited to the event, which featured four shows from 1-2:30 p.m., included ICC employees and students, STEM Advisory Board members and state and congressional leaders.

Most recently, TVA made an additional donation to the project which funded research stipends and STEM Club travel to such locations as Skylake Boardwalk and TVA Wilson Dam. A portion of the funds were earmarked for ICC's Trading Post to provide necessities to students who need the basics to continue their college careers. - See additional story, page five.

Congrats... Coach Collier!

ICC baseball players congratulate head coach Rick Collier on picking up his 700th win, Apr. 19, at Roy Cresap Field.

See full story, page 12.



For the latest news updates
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VIEWPOINTS

VIEWPOINT

KENNA GRANT
Chieftain Staff

One of THE BEST!

Itawamba Community College is one of the BEST institutions for postsecondary education.

With countless student events, student organizations and a supportive faculty, students can expect not just a sound education, but also an era brimming with new and impactful experiences, unforgettable memories, lasting relationships and personal growth.

One of the greatest characteristics of ICC is the sense of community. ICC does a fantastic job of making its students and staff feel as though they are part of a family, evident through student participation. The more involved you are, the more likely you are to establish strong bonds that can continue beyond ICC. The abundant selection of student activities is one of the best ways to meet new individuals from all walks of life.

ICC's ambience is full of warmth and acceptance.

Drawing from personal experiences, the Wesley Foundation welcomed me with open arms during a time when I was wrestling with personal misfortunes. The love that overflowed from every member equipped me with restoration and a strength to push against the challenges that overwhelmed me.

Some of the best memories that I have from Wesley are from Statewide, when I met many individuals of faith from other institutions like Mississippi State University, the University of Southern Mississippi and Alcorn State University. The experience was spiritually enriching as well as lively. There was never a dull moment while I worshipped and fellowshiped with individuals who held beliefs similar to my own. The Wesley Foundation will always have a special place in my heart!

Another benefit of attending ICC is the support from the faculty and staff. It's true what they say! The instructors really do care about student success. They are always willing to assist when necessary, easily reachable and eager to work with students to provide the best solutions - or alternatives - in the case of unanticipated circumstances. ICC advisers will also work with students who are undecided on a field of study to find courses in alignment with their interests.

From personal experience, my academic advisers and instructors all worked with me to ensure I was still able to complete remaining assignments after an unforeseen calamity resulted in my resuming classes online. They understood the magnitude of the situation and worked swiftly to find accommodations by offering extensions on course materials and remaining assignments. I am forever grateful for the generosity they showed me despite the odds!

ICC not only supports academic success, but they also prioritize student well-being through mental Health Awareness, on-campus/location counseling, fitness and Wellness Week. - **See One of THE BEST, page eleven.**



OPINION POLL

“What is your favorite class you’ve taken at ICC and why?”

“American Literature with Amy Jo Holcomb. I liked a lot of what we talked about. I really like English.” - **Kenna Grant, Horn Lake, sophomore**

“Special Topics of Biology with Dr. Jada Mills. I feel like I’m doing real research in the community.” - **Sara Davis, Smithville, sophomore**

“Piano lessons for vocal majors with Anna Morgan. It’s very hands-on and an open class. I’m allowed to express what works and doesn’t work in the class. There’s a lot of collaborative feedback.” - **Lucien Coker, Pontotoc, sophomore**

“Chemistry 2 with Carrie Boykin. I love Ms. Boykin.” - **Savannah Shumpert, Mooreville, freshman**

“General Psychology with Judith Griffie. “She had a passion for her craft. She really wanted to help the students she was teaching. She gave me really good advice.” - **Marily Kesley, Abbeville, sophomore**

“Music Appreciation with Kyle Davis. I really liked my teacher.” - **Sydney Palmer, Saltillo, freshman**

“Chemistry 2 with Carrie Boykin because she is awesome.” - **Lauren Lee, Olive Branch, sophomore**

“Sociology with Lynn Millender because I’m majoring in social work, and I like to know about the mind.” - **Anna Claire Smith, Houston, sophomore**

“Spanish 1-4 with Brian Tollison because I’m trying to learn a new language, and his classes are super helpful.” - **Kenley Parker, Calhoun City, freshman**

“American Lit 2 with Dr. Ashley Craig. I like the way she teaches. The literature is interesting and can use it to reflect on your life.” - **Michael Cruz, Vardaman, sophomore**

SHARLEE SHUMPERT

Chieftain Staff

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VIEWPOINT

KARA GRAHAM
Chieftain Staff

Planning for the future isn't always easy

When I was young, I grew up wanting to help people. My mom was a nurse, and I saw growing up that she was always there for people. That left me with a question. How do I make a difference?

I thought about being a nurse, but there was one problem. I couldn’t stand the sight of blood. That’s when I realized that I probably wouldn’t be good as a nurse, which left me with the question of how I was going to make a difference. I saw journalists sharing stories and making a difference in people’s lives, and that was what I decided to major in.

However, I still didn’t feel that I had selected the “right” major, and something just told me to change.

I sat for days and weeks pondering about this sudden change when one day, it just hit me! I was meant to make a difference in the lives of families through facilitating adoptions. Many families struggle with such issues as infertility, but adoption provides hope for both families and children who are waiting to be adopted.

What many don’t know is there are different kinds of adoptions, including regular (family applies, home studies are conducted and the family is eventually matched with the child). There is also embryo adoption, using in vitro fertilization.

Also, there is domestic adoption, where parents adopt a child from their home country or as in international adoption, children are brought from another country.

Adoption can also provide a loving family for children as well as offer a safe and loving home environment. This is especially important for their development, both mentally and emotionally. Adoptive parents can also give their children resources academically as well as provide a healthy environment. This ensures that children can grow up to reach their full potential.

Another benefit not often mentioned is that biological mothers and fathers don’t always have the resources to provide for a child. Adoption provides a way for parents to know that they are setting their child up for a better future.

Long story short, adoption is a beautiful thing for both families and children. I can’t wait to be able to help both families and children and improve their lives. Nothing could be more rewarding to me.

Chieftain staff needed for fall 2025!

To apply, email
dsthomas@iccms.edu



Staff Writers.....Sydney Barber, Sara Davis, Grant Edger, Shelby Franks, Kara Graham, Kenna Grant, Alea Hudson, Mathaius Malar, Billy Millender, Sharlee Shumpert

Adviser.....Donna Thomas

Sports Information.....Adam Goré, Cal Brown

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The Chieftain is available online only and is posted three times each semester.

Views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the faculty and administration.

Itawamba Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award associate's degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404.679.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Itawamba Community College.

Itawamba Community College is an equal opportunity institution. The College strictly prohibits discrimination in its educational programs and activities, employment practices and admissions processes on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ethnicity, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran or other status protected by applicable law.

For more information, contact the Vice President of Student Services, 602 West Hill Street, Fulton, MS 38843, 662.862.8271, or email TitleIXCoordinator@iccms.edu.

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Faculty SPOTLIGHT

ALLYSON CUMMINGS

Instructor, Speech

FAMILY: Married to her husband, Chad, for almost 24 years. They have a son, Jack, 18, who will be a freshman at the Fulton Campus in the fall.

EDUCATION: Attended ICC as a freshman and sophomore; transferred to Mississippi State University, where she earned both the bachelor's and master's degrees.

WHAT DO YOU CURRENTLY TEACH OR HAVE TAUGHT: Teaches both traditional and online public speaking



TEACHING EXPERIENCE: Teaching for 12 years at ICC, but has been at ICC for 23 years. The first half of her career, she was a counselor on the Fulton Campus, sponsor for the Indian Delegation and recruiter. In 2013, she earned her specialist degree so that she could teach public speaking.

POSITIVE ASPECTS OF TEACHING: "We say at my house that if you're going to work at a community college, being a teacher and an instructor is the best part because our administration gives us a lot of flexibility on what we teach. We have certain guidelines we have to follow by the state on what we teach, but as far as being able to teach in the way we want to, our dean and our vice president give us a lot of flexibility. It's also nice to be off in the summer, and we can pick up summer classes if we want to, although it's not required. So, if you want to just teach during the fall and spring and have the summer off, you can."

NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF TEACHING: "It's very frustrating to put your heart and soul in it and then students don't reciprocate with that same effort. I tell my students all the time, I give you all of the tools to be successful. I'm throwing them at you every day, but I can't make you use them. So, that gets frustrating when they choose not to use the tools."

ADVICE TO STUDENTS: "Class attendance to your teacher shows that it is important too. You may not be the smartest student in the class, but if you show us that class attendance is a priority, we are willing to meet you more than halfway to help you be successful."

A FUN FACT TO KNOW ABOUT THE TEACHER/FACULTY MEMBER: "Growing up, I was an avid Duke basketball fan."

SYDNEY BARBER
Chieftain Staff

Registration open for ICC CE classes

Registration is now open for four Continuing Education classes to be taught at the Itawamba Community College Belden Center.

They include Grant Writing (Part 2), May 31, June 7, 8 a.m.-noon; Emergency Medical Technician, May 1-August 7, Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 5-10 p.m.; Forklift Operator Training, May 13, from 8 a.m.-noon; and Heartsaver® CPR, May 20, from 8 a.m.-noon.

For more information, email continuingeducation@iccms.edu or call (662) 407-1500.



Itawamba Community College Physical Therapist Assistant Technology students, including from left, Jay Coln of Glen, Akira Taylor of New Albany and Abby Ingram of Water Valley work together in the lab at the Tupelo Campus.

Apply by May 1 for health science programs at ICC

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College's School of Health Science programs are designed to prepare individuals for employment in the healthcare field, and the application deadline for fall 2025 is rapidly approaching for 10 of the 11 programs.

Students interested in ICC's Associate Degree Nursing, Diagnostic Medical Sonography, Health Information Technology, Occupational Therapy Assistant Technology, Physical Therapist Assistant Technology, Practical Nursing, Public Health Technology, Radiologic Technology, Respiratory Care Technology and Surgical Technology must submit their online application and meet the requirements by May 1.

According to Tonya Vaughn, Dean of Health Science Instruction, the only exception is Emergency Medical Sciences, which has an application deadline of Aug. 1 for the fall class.

"Those who complete ICC's health science programs earn either a certificate of completion or an Associate of Applied Science degree at the conclusion of their programs," Vaughn said. "With our sophomores in all programs nearing the end of their study and preparation to enter the workforce, it is both a sad and happy time. We are excited for them as they take their place in the health field, and we appreciate the opportunity that we have had to share their journey."

Among those who will complete programs in a few short weeks are Lahteisha McCoy of Tupelo, Physical Therapist Assistant, and Marlee Hoing of Pontotoc, Occupational Therapy Assistant. Although both have different stories and different paths on their journey, they are eager to utilize what they learned and make a difference.

Before starting the PTA program, McCoy earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science from the University of Mississippi. "I chose exercise science because I have always had an interest in fitness, health and wellness," she said, but I struggled to find a job in the field. I applied and made it through the interview process but was never chosen as a candidate."

During the job search, McCoy said that she researched other career paths, among which was physical therapist assistant because of its similarity. As she job shadowed at Longtown and Acute Care at the North Mississippi Medical Center, she said that she became more intrigued." In 2018, she again applied for ICC's PTA program but wasn't selected during that academic school year.

In April of that year, McCoy applied for a rehabilitation technician position at NMMC, and she was hired in May. "I gained experience working with geriatrics, neurological and orthopedic patients. I learned that I genuinely embodied care and compassion for the health and well-being of patients who are recovering from trauma, disease and limited functional

mobility. I also found out that my suspicions were confirmed, that most people with bachelor's degrees in exercise science go back to college to become a PTA and that most don't get into ICC's program on the first attempt due to the competitiveness of the program requirements."

Once again, McCoy applied to ICC's PTA program in 2019, but with the same results. "I wasn't discouraged," she said, "but as the years passed, one day she decided to try again." This time, she noted, that she didn't tell anyone and completed the application the week it was due. "I said a prayer and hit submit. I finally received the email I had been waiting for... 'Congratulations! You have been selected for an interview for the PTA program.' I was overjoyed and shocked at the same time."

During her first year, she continued to work full-time as a nurse assistant on the pediatric unit at NMMC. McCoy attended class through the week and worked 12-hour night shifts on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. "I worked, studied and repeated every week. Although I completed the year with all As, but during my sophomore year, I worked only part time because I knew the program would be more demanding. Throughout my journey, I have become more resilient." McCoy credits ICC's faculty and clinical opportunities for experiencing the role of a PTA in outpatient, inpatient, SNF and acute care.

Hoing's journey was a bit different, but she shares with McCoy in meeting the end goal. Growing up, she knew that she was meant to work with children, but unsure of the field. "After praying and job shadowing, God showed me occupational therapy. That's when I researched and came across ICC's program. Through my journey in the OTA program, I have learned many things such as increasing patients' functional status in activities of daily living as well as how to be creative, how to be a teammate and leader, how to communicate effectively and how amazing and personable occupational therapy is."

Hoing said that her program choice was the BEST! "Throughout the past two years, my classmates, teachers and I have become a family. We always lean on each other, are open and uplift one another. We've learned throughout our courses about each other, which teaches us the importance of knowing your patient holistically."

One of the most important parts of clinical rotations, Hoing noted, is getting to know the patients and what makes them unique. "You learn what they enjoy and what they strive to do. As an OT practitioner, you can address the goals the patient would like to accomplish such as driving, being able to hold their grandchild again, brushing their hair, writing the letters of the alphabet and simply being able to manipulate buttons and fasteners, for example."

See Health Deadline, page six.

ACROSS CAMPUS

College CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SPRING 2025

Apr. 28 Faculty and staff Awards of Distinction and Retirement ceremony, 2 p.m.
Student Awards of Distinction ceremony, 6 p.m.

Apr. 28- Final exams for eLearning full-term classes

May 2 Registration continues through the Advising Center if faculty adviser is not available

Apr. 30 Last day to drop classes with a 'W' through excessive absences or withdrawal from classes for eLearning second four-week classes

May 5-8 Final exams for eLearning second eight-week and eLearning second four-week classes

May 6-8 Final exams for traditional full-term day/night and traditional second eight-week classes

May 15 Adult Education commencement ceremony

May 16 Commencement ceremonies

For more information and updates on the fall schedule, go to www.iccms.edu



Bland receives MASFAA award

ICC Financial Aid director Terry Bland receives the Jack Woodward Award of Excellence from the Mississippi Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the organization's highest award, last week at the group's statewide conference at ICC-Belden.

SHELBY FRANKS
Chieftain Staff

As ICC's 2024-25 school year comes to a close, students will be making arrangements to move out of their residence halls.

According to Lauren Inmon, Student Services assistant, there are procedures for properly checking out of the residence halls.

"All residence halls will close Thursday, May 8, at 4:30 p.m.," Inmon said. All students will need to contact their assigned resident assistant or hall



Members of ICC's Indian Delegation for 2024-25 participate in a retreat at Top Golf prior to the beginning of the fall semester.

ICC selects '25-'26 Indian Delegation

ALEA HUDSON
Chieftain Staff

Itawamba Community College has selected the Indian Delegation for the 2025-26 academic year.

The student leaders serve as ambassadors for the college by assisting with campus/location events, giving tours and representing ICC at official functions. Each delegate was selected for their leadership, involvement and commitment to the ICC community, according to Michael Holloway, sponsor and director of Recruitment and Orientation.

The newly-selected Fulton Campus delegates are Cal Caldwell, Sydney Calhoun, Lillianna Chumney, Cella Kay Dye, Reagan Gordon, Liv Gundy, Sophie Hill, Jaxon Jones, Kaylee Joslin, Morgan Keller, Landry Kent, Mikah Beth Lesley, Alice May, Audrey McCuller, Adrianna Ruth, Cara Scalings, Alyssa Sittiprasert and Madison Sullivan.

Returning delegates for the Fulton Campus include Summer Bates, Anna Cate Crenshaw, Will Hathcote, Karry Linley, Landon Long, Brantley Martin, Mallie Milam, Grace Padgett,

Claire Price, Caroline Riley, Shelby Sullivan, Josie Warren and Emma Caroline Wright.

New Tupelo Campus delegates are Kaylee Baggett, Cali Box, Jacob Gore, Alexis Jolly, Cindy Martinez, AnaLauryn Milis, Sam Riley and Audrey Summerford.

Returning Tupelo delegates are Anna Lauren Glasson, Jaycee Maynard and Isabel Moctezuma.

Cosponsors are Ethan Foster and Tyrani Key, Tupelo Campus; and Chloe Hester and Kyle Spencer, Fulton Campus.

Class of 2025... Time to 'order' transcripts

GRANT EDGER
Chieftain Staff

Commencement ceremonies are fast approaching for Itawamba Community College's class of 2025. For the graduates who are transferring to four-year colleges, it's time to ensure that their future university has access to their ICC transcripts.

It's also important for students to know what steps to take to ensure their transcripts get to their university of choice.

ICC's director of Admissions and Registrar Rachel Steele, who emphasized the importance of knowing the steps to take, detailed the process for acquiring a transcript as well as other noteworthy tips.

To deliver a transcript, students will need to use the Parchment website which can be found on

ICC's website, www.iccms.edu. "You can type in your information, and Parchment will locate your transcript in our system, and wherever you request it to be sent, it will be sent," Steele said.

"If for some reason it's not sent, it's probably because a student has some sort of hold. Such things as owing money to the Business office, residence hall fees or improper checkout can often prevent a transcript from going out."

For students who want to order a transcript before their final exams, Parchment offers an option to hold transcripts until final grades come in.

It is also important that when students order their transcript that they send it to their university of choice and not to themselves since transcripts are deemed unofficial and cannot be accepted by most colleges or universities, Steele emphasized.

Are you ready? Residence hall checkout nears

director to schedule a time to move out and must check out within 12 hours of their final exam. Every student must be checked out by 4:30 p.m. on May 8.

Residence hall checkout includes several steps, Inmon noted.

All personal belongings should be removed from the room, and the room and bathroom should be cleaned. Afterward, "the student will then reach out to the RA or hall director or return

their key, and the RA or hall director will assess the room for cleanliness and any damages."

When the inspection is completed, an electronic inventory sheet will be sent to the student via ICC email for their signature.

Those who have questions about the process or any housing concerns should contact the Housing office, which is located on the first floor of the David C. Cole Student Services Building at the Fulton Campus, or email housing@iccms.edu.

Have a great summer!

Meeting Room Club News & Calendar

PROFESSIONAL/SCHOLARLY

Alpha Delta Nu	alphadeltanu@iccms.edu
Educators Rising	educatorsrising@iccms.edu
Humanities Club	humanitiesclub@iccms.edu
ICC Art Club	artclub@iccms.edu
ICC Honors College	honors@iccms.edu
MOSA	mosa@iccms.edu
Nurses Christian Fellowship	ncf@iccms.edu
PEAK Club	peak@iccms.edu
Phi Theta Kappa	PTKFulton@iccms.edu
Sigma Kappa Delta	SKD@iccms.edu
Skills USA	skillsusa@iccms.edu
STEM Club	stemclub@iccms.edu
SOTA (Occupational Ther.)	sota@iccms.edu
The Business Council	council@iccms.edu
The Global Experience	travel@iccms.edu

COLLEGE-BASED

Archery Club	archery@iccms.edu
Bass Club	bassclub@iccms.edu
Chieftain (Newspaper)	chieftain@iccms.edu
Disc Golf Club	discgolf@iccms.edu
eSports Club	esports@iccms.edu
Fashion Tribe	fashiontribe@iccms.edu
Indian Delegation	delegate@iccms.edu
Men of Excellence	menofexcellence@iccms.edu
Mirror (Yearbook)	mirror@iccms.edu
Orientation Leaders	orientation@iccms.edu
Student Activities Board	SAB@iccms.edu
Student Government Assn.	SGAFulton@iccms.edu
	SGATupelo@iccms.edu

FINE ARTS PERFORMING

All-American Band	band@iccms.edu
CenterStage	centerstage@iccms.edu
Choir and Chamber Singers	choir@iccms.edu
Color Guard	colorguard@iccms.edu
Concert Ensembles	band@iccms.edu
Film Club	filmclub@iccms.edu
Indianettes	indianettes@iccms.edu
Jazz Ensemble	jazz@iccms.edu
Pom Squad	pomsquad@iccms.edu
Steel Drum Band	band@iccms.edu
Theatre Productions	theatre@iccms.edu
Woodwind Ensembles	woodwinds@iccms.edu

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Baptist Student Union	bsu@iccms.edu
Fellowship of Christian Athletes	FCA@iccms.edu
Nurses Christian Fellowship	NCF@iccms.edu
Wesley Foundation	wesley@iccms.edu

For more information on ICC clubs and organizations, www.iccms.edu.



Construction Management sophomores visit B&G



Second-year Construction Management Technology students visited Brasfield & Gorrie Construction in Birmingham, Ala. last Wednesday. They toured a \$250 million active job-site and discussed the work with project management team members. Additional stops included the B&G headquarters downtown, where they participated in a discussion panel and met with key leaders of the company's 15 market sectors. B&G is a recruiting and scholarship partner of ICC's CMT program. - Photos furnished

Stars, moons and a look into space Mills talks about ICC's new planetarium

SARA DAVIS
Chieftain Staff

Recently, ICC's School of STEM unveiled its latest project, a mobile planetarium to administrators, Tennessee Valley Authority representatives, faculty and students during these sessions.

It is inside an easily moveable, dark, inflatable dome onto which projections of stars, planets and other celestial phenomena are cast. It can fit about 15 adults at a time or 30 small children and is located on the second floor of the John S. Crubaugh Education building, room 211 on the Fulton Campus.

EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY

According to Dr. Jada Mills, Natural Science division chair and one of three STEM sponsors, the goal of this project is to increase STEM education opportunities for current or potential students and the community. She describes the newest installation as "an excellent opportunity to encourage the younger generation to get excited about STEM," which was evident during its grand opening Apr. 10, and she is 100 percent correct.

The planetarium opportunity started last year



Heather McCormick, ICC Natural Science division chair, shares information about the planetarium, during a recent open house.

with a grant of \$15,000 from the Tennessee Valley Authority for STEM education at ICC. From there, STEM Club sponsors Bradley Howard, Heather McCormick and Mills collaborated on how best to use this money to provide enhanced educational opportunities for ICC's students and the community. They landed on what would become ICC's first mobile planetarium. Subsequently, they sent

requests for students to have the opportunity to write the scripts for this installation and receive a \$250 stipend, courtesy of the TVA grant for their work.

FASCINATING SUBJECT

Being one of the lucky few to be able to write one of the prospective scripts submitted for the show, I can definitely say how much I appreciate the opportunity to add a real show point to my resume and be a part of a subject that I've been fascinated by since I saw my first planetarium show at the Pink Palace Planetarium in Memphis when I was 6.

The research material and written narrative scripts allows four available shows, including Northern Hemisphere with Constellations, Aurora Borealis, Day Side Earth and Moon and Warped Andromeda.

With the upcoming visits to local schools this fall, Mills said that the ultimate goal for the planetarium is to "be a great learning resource for not only ICC, but the community as well." - **Sara Davis, Chieftain staff, served as one of the script writers for the planetarium.**

getinvolved@iccms.edu

ACROSS CAMPUS

Want To Know More?

FULTON CAMPUS

Information on Contact

Academic Honors.....	Admissions
Activities Calendar	V.P. of Student Services
Admissions/Records	Admissions
Advanced Placement	V.P. of Instructional Services
Athletics	Athletic Director
Band	Band Director
Books/Supplies	Bookstore
Career Planning	Adviser/Advising Center
Car Registration Decals	Campus Police
Change of Adviser/Major.....	Advising Center
Change in Curriculum	Adviser/Student Affairs
Counseling	Student Affairs
Counseling (Personal).....	V.P. of Student Services
Course Placement.....	V.P. of Instructional Services
Evaluation of Credits.....	Admissions
Examinations.....	Instructor
Faculty Office Hours	Instructor
Graduation Req.....	Admissions
Housing	Director of Housing
I.D. Cards	Library
Intramurals/Activities	Coor. of Student Activities
Library	Director of Libraries
Log-Ins/PINs	TIS Help Desk
Parking	Campus Police
Part-Time Jobs	Student Affairs
Placement Testing	Student Affairs
Publicity/Publications	Community Relations
Registration.....	Admissions
Schedule Changes	Adviser
Schedule Planning	Adviser
Scholarships	Financial Aid
Student Aid/Work Study	Financial Aid
Student Government	Coor. of Student Activities
Student Organizations.....	Sponsors
Summer School	Coor. of Student Activities
Testing (Career).....	V.P. of Instructional Services
Transcripts	Career Center
Tuition, Fees, Deferrals	Business office
Use of Campus Property	V.P. of Student Services
Veterans Affairs	Financial Aid

TUPELO CAMPUS

Admissions/Records	Student Affairs
Advanced Placement Credit.	V.P. of Instructional Services
Books and Supplies	Bookstore
Career Planning.....	Adviser/Career Center
Car Registration/Decals	Campus Police
Counseling	Student Affairs
Evaluation of Credits.....	Admissions
I.D. Cards	Library
Job Placement.....	Career Center
Library	Library
Log-Ins/PINs	TIS Help Desk
Parking	Campus Police
Registration/Early-Reg.....	Student Affairs
Schedule Planning	Student Affairs
Scholarships	Financial Aid
Student Activities	Coor. of Student Activities
Student Aid.....	Financial Aid
Student Government	Coor. of Student Activities
Transcripts	Student Affairs
Tuition and Fees.....	Business office
Veterans Affairs	Financial Aid

BEDEN CENTER

Adult Ed./High School Equivalency	Audra Perry
Career Education.....	Dylan Baldwin
Continuing Education	Josh Gammill
WIOA.....	Brad Gates
Workforce.....	Barry Emison

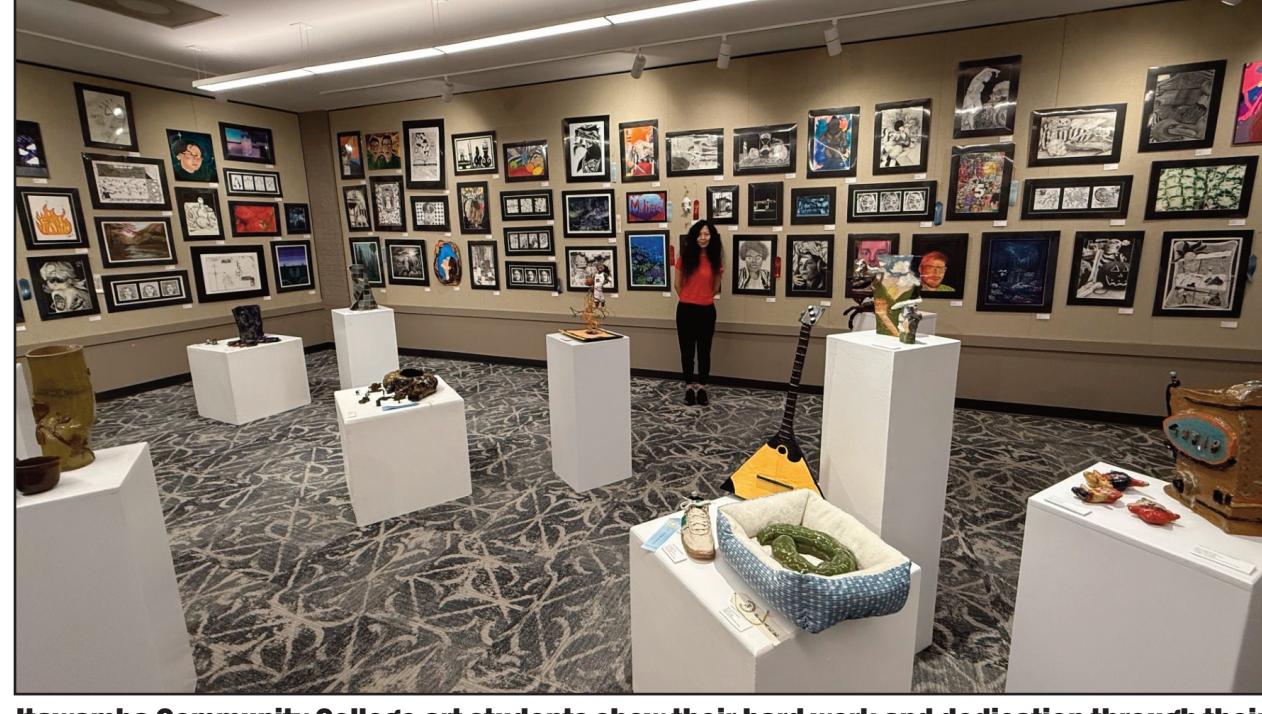
Contact information available
at www.iccms.edu
by clicking on the area of interest
or by searching
the college directory
at the same location.

Health deadline From page three

Although she and McCoy are about to graduate from two different programs, perhaps Hoing says it best, "My chosen profession and the ICC program have transformed me in the best way, but it will touch others who come into contact with you. I now get to make a difference in this world, and I can't wait to see where it takes me. Thank you, ICC!"

Since the deadline is fast approaching for the programs, those interested in enrolling are encouraged to take the next step as soon as possible, Vaughn said.

For more information on ICC's health science programs, call (662) 620-5239 or email health-sciences@iccms.edu.



Itawamba Community College art students show their hard work and dedication through their pieces that are currently on display in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center gallery at the Fulton Campus through May 8. The display includes drawing, painting, design, ceramics and sculpture. - Photo furnished

Gallery features student art competition

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College's Student Art Competition is currently on display in the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center gallery at the Fulton Campus.

Works judged include drawing, painting, design, ceramics and sculpture.

The winners include **Eduardo Moreno** of Batesville, third, design, "Rest Area," and honorable mention, design, "Malice;" **Brady Edington** of Calhoun City, second, ceramics, "Western Intellect," and honorable mention, ceramics, "Old Skoll;" **Kylie Long** of Eldridge, Ala., third, drawing, "Heart on Sleeve;" **Reja Anderson** of Eupora, honorable mention, painting, "Frosty Meadow;" **Emily Tibbs** of Fulton, second, painting, "Underwater Landscape;" **Jude Taylor** of Hamilton, first, ceramics, "War Pigs;" **Ekkaleo Quartey** of Jackson, second, drawing, "Myself;" **Connor Wood** of Jasper, Ala., first, sculpture, "Hare of the Hollow;" **Raheim Blanchard** of Okolona, honorable mention, drawing,

"Dream 2;" **Isaiah Pannell** of Pontotoc, first, design, "Self portrait triptych" and honorable mention, ceramics, "Bamboo;"

Layla Tutor of Pontotoc, third, sculpture, "Woven in Clay;" **Noah Sartin** of Saltillo, first, drawing,

"Self-Portrait and third, painting, "Shadowlands;" **Sydney Ladd** of Tupelo, first, painting, "Lazy Day;" second, design, "Fall to Wonderland" and second, sculpture, "Mouse Attack;"

Johnathan Calderon of Tupelo, third, ceramics, "Grub;" and

Susan Hippenstein of Tupelo, best in show, "Dr. Shreek."

The show also includes works

by Ann Robinson of **Belden**; Dalton Brandon of **Dennis**; Courtney

Black, Kiana Frepon, Bree Ana

Bennett, Lexi Grant, all of **Fulton**; Logan Crane of **Golden**;

Alana Ballard of **Grenada**; Meredith Gaudet, Sam Truelove,

both of **Hamilton**; D'Alysa Gordon of **Houlika**; Victoria Shaffer

of **Louisville**; James Lesley, Rebekah Sheffield, both of **Manatachie**; Nico Hesselrode of

Mooreville; Canton Forster of

Planterville; Zak Buford of

Saltillo; Anna Brown of **Thaxton**;

Jeremiah Aaromon, Laura

Martinez Garcia, Chris Smith,

Emery Christensen, all of **Shannon**;

Callie Beasley of **Tremont**;

Joseph Hippenstein, Bryan Martinez, Jennifer Mejia, Agnes

Strickland and Kaitlyn Wallace, all of **Tupelo**; and Alaysha Hubbard of **Vardaman**.

The work allows students to show off the hard work and dedication they have displayed during the 2024-25 school year, according to Shawn Whittington, art instructor and gallery director. This year's judge was Lillian You from Beijing, China. She has a master's degree in art and art history from the Central Academy of Art in Beijing.

The work will be on display through May 8, when an awards ceremony is scheduled for 6 p.m. Gallery hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Admission is free. For more information, contact eswhittington@iccms.edu or call (662) 862-8301.

ICC students receive state creative writing awards

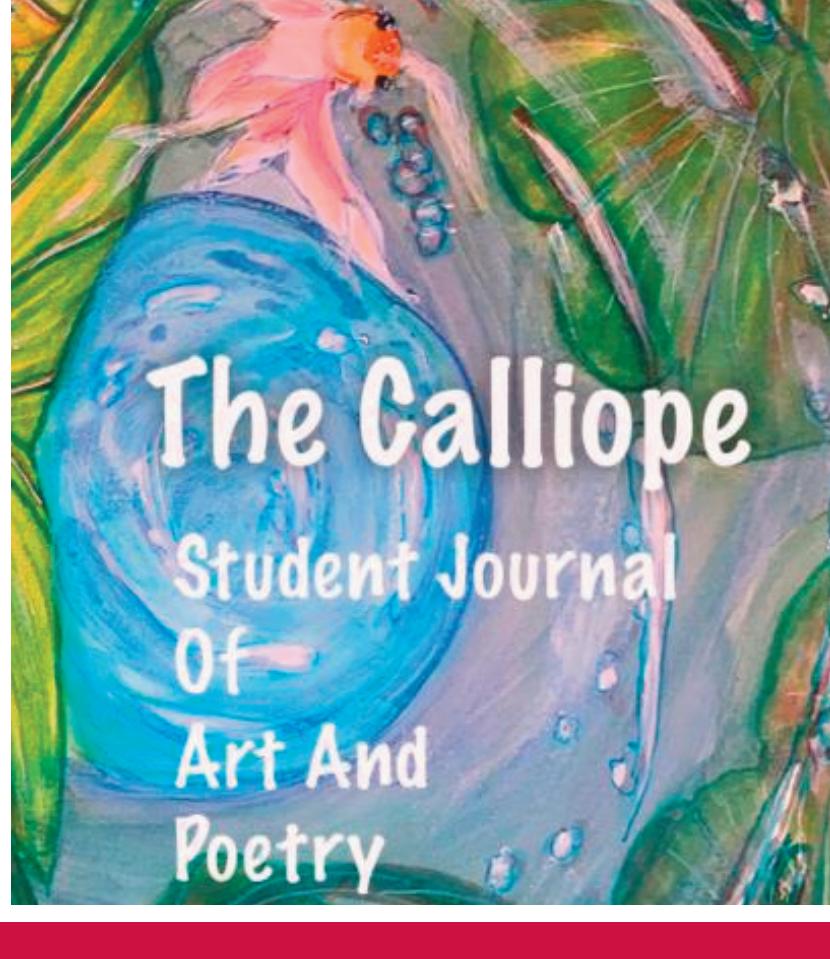
Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College students recently received awards from the Mississippi Community College Creative Writing Association for their work.

They include Jalynn Black of McCool, third place in Short Stories for "The Voice That Wouldn't Fade;" Sharlee Shumpert of Mooreville, third place in Poetry for "I Am Ambitious" and Sara Davis of Smithville, second place in Poetry for "Preacher Man."

In addition, ICC's literary magazine, The Calliope, placed second. Chief editor is Shawn Whittington of Saltillo, and English instructor Keith Morris of Tupelo, poetry editor.

State-level winners will receive certificates and a copy of The Community College Writer, which publishes the student winners. Statewide first, second and third place winners' monetary prizes include \$100, \$60 and \$40 respectively. - 2024 edition of The Calliope at right.



Shop the ICC Bookstore TODAY! Fulton, Tupelo, Online



Gabrielle Golden of Pontotoc, right, and Alex Sligh of Amory, students in Itawamba Community College's Occupational Therapy Assistant program, work together during a recent class at the Tupelo Campus.

ICC joins national celebration of April as Occupational Therapy Month

Staff Reports

As the nation celebrates Occupational Therapy Month in April, students in Itawamba Community College's OTA program will also commemorate their profession, especially Rodney Hardy, who is on track to graduate in May.

"This has been by far one of the most challenging, yet best experiences of my life," he noted. Here's his story...

Back in 2014, when he was a nursing student at ICC, Hardy left class, got caught in a bad snow/ice storm, hit a patch of ice, and his car slid, fish tailed and flipped five times. He thought he was stuck between the steering wheel and dashboard, but the car had crushed his left leg.

He calls one of his classmates his guardian angel because she noticed that he was no longer following behind her. "Something kept telling her to turn around and thankfully she listened and found me. She called 911, but the ambulance couldn't get close enough to the scene where my car had landed because of the ice. With the help of a friend who was hunting and just happened to be coming out of the woods, they placed me on the back of his truck after the EMTs cut me out of my car, and he drove me to the ambulance. Because of the weather, it took two hours to reach the hospital."

Hardy, who was in the hospital for

three months, doesn't remember how long he was on the vent and lost his leg. "I also lost a great job, my nursing career, went through every stage of the grieving process, battled depression and suffered from PTSD." His therapy at UAB included both Occupational Therapy and Physical Therapy. "My OT was a lady who was no more than 5'2", 130 pounds, but she pushed a 5'8", 4-5-pound amputee to his limits and showed me that 'yes you can go back to school and although your new life will be in OT terminology, 'adaptive,' it can be 'functional.'"

Four years later, Hardy was doing some private duty sitting with a retired Veteran, who also has nursing, and both OT and PT. He took the advice of the OT, who observed the way Hardy handled the patient. "As good as you are with Mr. Vet, and as smart as you are, you should consider OT school. Your life experience as an amputee and your nursing skill set makes you the perfect candidate." Hardy said that he didn't 'see at this point in life going back to school, so he settled into his life of disability.'

The next chapter of his story includes connections that led to learning and watching how OT, PT, SLP and nursing collaborations change people's lives. Through a friend, who is now his boss, Hardy learned about

ICC's OTA program. After her strong encouragement, Hardy said, "at first, the middle-aged disabled person said, NO! Then that small still voice said, 'you love what you do, you have found your niche, why not try?' Considering he had the hundreds of observation hours, all prerequisites, his 'good enough' ACT and GPA scores, Hardy applied and interviewed.

Fast forward five months. The interview. "I'm nervous, but bold and confident," Hardy said. His first question, "Why do you want to be an OTA?" "Without hesitation, I explained to them that I'm a LAKA and that I'm a product of OT services. OT taught me adaptive ways to live my life in a functional manner that ultimately gave me a reason to live life to the fullest." He was given an invitation to become an Occupational Therapy student at ICC. Although in his words, he nervously accepted, to be one of 14 students. He's the oldest, the only male, the only black student and the only disabled person in the class. "I really felt as if I did not belong, but I prayed and stayed! My classmates embraced me, and we quickly became a family."

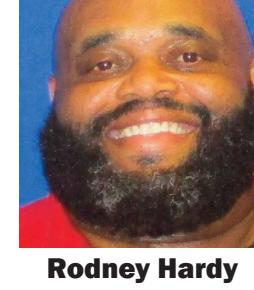
Hardy had to drive three hours round trip for 18 months home to Gordo, Ala. He said that although he thought of multiple excuses, the en-

courage of program director Dr. Dee Dee Lomenick, academic fieldwork coordinator Shannon Fraiser and adjunct faculty member Zach Wooten, his classmates and other health science students not to quit and never give up, he's stayed the course. "My instructors took nothing less than maximum effort and pushed not only me, but the entire class to work with a spirit of excellence. I'm not the fastest, the smartest or the youngest, but my prayer and my goal is to be the most efficient in my craft as a future OTA, and this program has thoroughly prepared me. The OTA program at ICC to me is more than just a program. This has been a life changing journey and experience."

This year's theme for the month-long celebration is "Occupational Therapy: Inspiring Hope, Changing Lives." And, soon-to-be Rodney Hardy is living proof.

Occupational Therapy Assistant is a two-year (four-semester) program. Graduates receive an Associate of Applied Science degree and will be eligible to take the national credentialing exam to become a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant. The program offers one class per year, beginning each fall. The application deadline is May 1.

For more information, call (662) 620-5349 or email healthsciences@iccms.edu.



Rodney Hardy

Congratulations ICC Class of 2025!

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

APRIL 28

Student Awards of Distinction Ceremony
Fulton - W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center
6 p.m.

APRIL 29

ICC Faculty Recital Series
Dr. Cass Patrick
Fulton - W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center
7 p.m.

MAY 1

CenterStage Spring Showcase
Fulton - W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center
7 p.m.

MAY 5

ICC Faculty Recital Series
Christy Griffith, Ryan Todd
Fulton - W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center
7 p.m.

MAY 16

Commencement

For more information
www.iccms.edu
Activities Calendar

Seven named to All-MS teams

Staff Reports

Seven Itawamba Community College sophomores have been named to the All-Mississippi teams, including both workforce and transfer.

They include Landon Brown of Fulton; Braiden Holcombe of Vina, Ala.; Yazmeen Alwaisi and Allyson Johnson, both of Tupelo, All-Mississippi Transfer; Cole Richardson of Iuka, Jared Martin of New Albany and Jaden Willis of Saltillo, All-Mississippi Workforce.

YAZMEEN ALWAISI

Alwaisi, who is a Middle College participant, will graduate from both Tupelo High School and ICC this spring. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa and the Student Government Association. Alwaisi plans to transfer to the University of Mississippi where she will double major in economics and political science and subsequently to attend law school.

LANDON BROWN

Brown is a member of the STEM Club and vice president of Projects for Phi Theta Kappa. His honors include the President's List. He plans to transfer to Mississippi State University to continue his mechanical engineering major.

BRAIDEN HOLCOMBE

Holcombe, who is a mechanical engineering major at ICC, is a member of the Indian Delegation (2024-25 vice president), Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta and STEM Club; Orientation Leader, Baptist Student Union lead team; Fashion Tribe executive and Instructional Support tutor. He plans to transfer to Mississippi State University, where he will major in industrial technology: maintenance and manufacturing.

ALLYSON JOHNSON

Also a participant in Middle College, Johnson is a computer engineering major at ICC, where her activities have included Phi Theta Kappa vice president of fellowship, Student Government Association Chickasaw County representative, Trading Post, STEM Club, President's Student Advisory Committee and Honors College. She plans to attend Mississippi State University to continue to work toward her degree with a minor in Environmental and Sustainability and subsequently earn the doctorate degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering with a focus in energy.

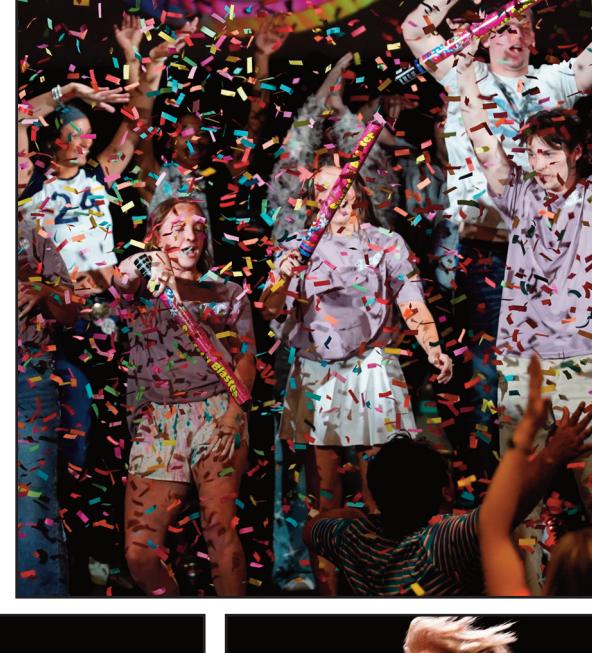
JARED MARTIN

Martin is majoring in Surgical Technology at ICC, where he is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He served as a junior volunteer at the North Mississippi Medical Center in patient control and the emergency room from 1993-95 under the direction of Nancy Whitten and received an award both years for the most hours volunteered. - **See All-Mississippi, page 10.**

CenterStage Spring Showcase

EXECUTIVES

FASHION TRIBE



Fashion Tribe Spring Show

Itawamba Community College's Fashion Tribe's spring show highlighted various styles of music across different genres and musical eras. More than 65 models were featured in the event.

FYI

MAKE A NOTE OF IT

JUST A REMINDER...

Review lockdown procedures

ICC's faculty, staff and students are urged to review campus lockdown procedures.

"The procedures are meant to be very simple because at the point of a lockdown, the major concern is the safety of all of the individuals in the campus community," said Dr. Brad Boggs, vice president of student services.

Notifications will be communicated via ICC ALERT, email and the Emergency Information Web page.

Upon notification of campus lockdown, everyone must react immediately.

The procedures include

- 1) Lock all doors and windows.
- 2) Close all blinds.
- 3) Turn off lights.
- 4) Use room furnishings to barricade doors and as protection.

5) Everyone should sit on the floor, away from doors and windows.

6) Make no noise.

7) Remain in lockdown until it is cleared with a notice via ICC ALERT or the police/administrator gives the ALL CLEAR code.

In addition, these are procedures in the event of severe weather conditions or evacuation.

Individuals should check ICC's website, www.iccms.edu, for information. It's located under Campus Safety on the home page.

Advising vital to college

KARA GRAHAM
Chieftain Staff

As the school year comes to an end, it's time to start thinking about the future, not only for freshmen, but also those who are continuing their educational journey. ICC's Advising Center can help both new and returning students register for classes and be the best student they can be!

"We're excited to welcome all students at all locations - Fulton, Tupelo and Belden - whether they're going to be attending the summer or fall term, and we like to work with them to help them select a major that's appropriate based on their interest," said Lori Little, director of Advising.

"The very first process would actually be submitting an admission application, and once accepted, they would reach out and meet with an adviser, she said.

According to Little, a student's major is a vital part of the advising process. Once a student declares their major, they are then assigned to an adviser who is knowledgeable about the advising process for that specific major.

There are several ways a student can meet with an adviser whether they are a returning student or new.

"There's a couple of different ways we serve students," Little said. "If they are a new student, transfer or readmit, we are going to serve those students through the Advising Center at Tupelo, Fulton or Belden."

Little said that students wonder how to change their classes, and advisers are available to help with that, too.

"They would need to see their assigned advisers if they are a current student, and if they are a new transfer or readmit, they will come to the Advising Center," Little said.

However, advisers guide students for coursework in all semesters, including fall, spring and summer. Currently, new transfer or readmitted students can meet with advisers for summer and fall classes.

New students (recent high school graduates) can sign up for orientation dates in June and July, Little noted. All students can register for classes until school starts.



Nationals

ICC's 2024-25 cheerleaders finished second in the Nationals in January.

2025-26 cheer hosts tryouts and clinics

MATT MALLARD

Chieftain Staff

School Spirit on One, Two, Three!

Itawamba Community College's 2025-26 cheerleader tryouts and clinics were April 4-6, and Coach Bryant Nickels selected his 39-member squad.

"The cheer clinics are a fundraiser for us," Nickels said, "and middle schoolers and high schoolers can sign up for it. The main point is for recruiting and having people sign up."

Nickels also said that anyone can still try out before the school year starts and during the school year. The responsibilities for staying on the cheer team include attending every football, basketball and some volleyball games, 6 a.m. workouts every day, practicing two hours on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and maintaining an athletic GPA of 2.0.

Being an ICC cheerleader requires commitment and dedication, and that is what Nickels said he expects of his squad, de-

spite finishing second place at Nationals in January.

"The bulk of the kids that tried out this year are aiming for a National Championship," Nickels said. "We have five sophomores that are coming back next year that are finished with ICC, but want to come back to help win a National Championship. They want to get a sour taste out of their mouth."

Next year, sophomores will do home football games, and freshmen will work the away games.

Those selected include 17 sophomores, 17 incoming freshmen and five third-year students.

Freshmen are Bess Boykin of Amory; Mallory Fleming of Batesville; Suzi Vaughan of Benoit; Madi Bullard of Blue Springs; Hannah Allen of Bruce; Anna Hardin, Anslee Kemp, both of Corinth; Killie Edwards of Fulton; Bryleigh Nix of Jasper, Ala.; Aylah O'Neal of Millport, Ala.;

Makenzie Turner of Oxford; Faith Dabbs of Pontotoc;

Bryleigh Cummings of Rienzi; Ali May of Saltillo; Ella Boykin, Melina Harris and Kayla Whitfield, all of Tupelo.

Sophomores are Amelia Tooley, Noah Tooley, both of Belmont;

Karlie Edwards of Fulton; Kathryn Higginbotham, Latravian Ware, both of Houlka; Katie Hollon of Iuka;

Emma Hill, Logan Lee Robertson, both of New Albany; Chap Liles, Claire Lowe, both of Oxford;

Alicia Greenlee of Philadelphia; Will Angle of Randolph; Addy Brown of Ripley; Jaida Lucious of Starkville; Makenzie Williamson of Tupelo and Angelina Whitten of Water Valley.

Third-year students include Mallory Robinson of Baldwyn; Brileigh Glidewell of Columbus; Maddox Jones of Pontotoc; Gabrielle Stewart of Saltillo; and Demetrius Knox of Tupelo.

ICC's welding celebrates career every day

Staff Reports

Although the nation commemorates April as National Welding Month, students in Kent Lewis's Welding and Cutting Technology class at Itawamba Community College's Belden Center celebrate their career path and ultimate profession every day.

This year's theme is "Connected by Welding: Bridging Communities and Industries," and ICC's students definitely do.

According to Dylan Baldwin, dean of Career Education, ICC's welding students are an excellent example of the definition of community partners. "They contribute to worthwhile events and charities while sharing their talents as often as possible. Every project provides an opportunity to demonstrate their creativity while honing their skills in their chosen profession."

ICC's welding students come from different backgrounds and have different career expectations, but they are bound by their love and passion for welding. Among their stories have included "I, hooked on a hobby that I can have for a lifetime. My grandfather was a welder, and I would have made him proud. I can feel his arms on mine when I stick weld."

Some hope to start their own business, but no matter their story, their chance meeting in ICC's welding and cutting class has given them an opportunity to learn something that will give them a better future. - *See Welding month, page eleven.*



ICC...The BEST!



Apr. 24 ICC Chop Day!!!

Itawamba Community College shared a preview of what's to come during the 2025 football season with Chop Day '25. Food trucks, games, sports cards, the band, cheerleaders and lots of fun made the day special to students, faculty and staff and members of the community who were at the Fulton Campus for the festivities.



Itawamba Community College is an open admission, comprehensive, publicly supported two-year institution primarily serving Chickasaw, Itawamba, Lee, Monroe and Pontotoc counties, while also being responsive to the instructional and economic development needs of the region.

Itawamba Community College fulfills its mission through 1) College-parallel, technical and career programs to prepare students to transfer or enter the workforce; 2) Continuing education and workforce pathways for individuals striving for professional growth or personal enrichment; 3) Strategic partnerships to provide student opportunities, meet business and industry needs and promote economic development; 4) Adult education programs committed to increasing the literacy level of the adult population, providing self-improvement opportunities, workforce readiness and/or high school equivalency; 5) Resources, including financial, physical and technological to advance educational purpose as well as traditional and online instructional services, student support services and business management; 6) Recruitment and employment of qualified personnel as well as provide ongoing opportunities for leadership growth and success in educational, career and personal goals.

Candidates for admission to academic and career education programs may be admitted by diploma - students are required to present an official transcript from a high school accredited by the appropriate state or regional accreditation association; by completing the appropriate number of Carnegie units; by successfully completing an acceptable high school equivalency test - students are required to have an official copy of the high school equivalency transcript mailed to the Director of Admissions; by advanced standing (college transfer students). Students graduating without a regular diploma (Occupational Diploma or Special Education Diploma) must successfully complete an acceptable high school equivalency test or qualify under a Mississippi Ability to Benefit State Process in order to be eligible for admission to Itawamba Community College. Some career education programs may have selective criteria for admission.

Itawamba Community College is an equal opportunity institution. The College strictly prohibits discrimination in its educational programs and activities, employment practices and admissions processes on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, religion, ethnicity, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, genetic information, status as a U.S. veteran or other status protected by applicable law. For more information, contact the Vice President of Student Services, 602 West Hill Street, Fulton, MS 38843, 662.862.8271 or email TitleIXCoordinator@iccms.edu.

In compliance with Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Itawamba Community College makes available its curricular and extracurricular programs and its facilities to every qualified person regardless of race, sex, color, creed, national origin or disability.

Itawamba Community College is accredited by the Southern Association of Community Colleges to award associate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404.670.4500 for questions about the accreditation of Itawamba Community College.

**www.iccms.edu
662.862.8000**

All-Mississippi From page eight COLE RICHARDSON

Richardson's activities at ICC have included Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Kappa Delta, band and band camp counselor. He has been on the president's list for fall '23 and spring and fall '24. Richardson is majoring in Respiratory Care Technology. He plans to take the NBRC after graduation to obtain licensure to begin work as a Respiratory Therapist. Subsequently, he will earn the bachelor's degree and apply for a physician's assistant program in the master's program.

JADEN WILLIS

Willis, who is majoring in Construction Management Technology, is a member of Phi Theta Kappa. He plans to join the workforce and start working full time for a commercial contractor when he graduates in May.

Nominations for the program are based on academic performance and service.

#thebeststarthere

ICC students earn Awards of Distinction

Staff Reports

Itawamba Community College will present its student awards of distinction during a special ceremony, Apr. 28, at 6 p.m. at the W.O. Benjamin Fine Arts Center on the Fulton Campus.

Recipients and their awards include

Amory - Dawson Grimes, Forestry Technology;

Athens, Ala. - Matthew McCarley, Mississippi Highway Patrol CORE graduate;

Booneville - Taylor Chapman, Practical Nursing;

Bruce - Jayke Logan, Mississippi Highway Patrol CORE graduate;

Caledonia - Braden Walters, Biology Department;

Ecrù - Alexis Derrick, Associate Degree Nursing; Eric Gonzalez, Electrical Technology, Hall of Fame;

Fulton - Catherine McFadden, Social Science Division; Drew Moore, Welding and Cutting Technology; Stone Collier, Health, Physical Education and Recreation Department; Landon Brown, Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic First Team Madison Dillard, Criminal Justice Technology; Olivia Cantrell, Sociology Department; Shelby Franks, Journalism Department; Sherry Pharr, Jeanette Carr-Winkler Caring Award;

Golden - Ben Orr, Natural Science Division; Joe Clark, Industrial Maintenance Technology;

Horn Lake - Kenna Grant, Communications Division;

Houlka - Karly Huffman Linley, Diagnostic Medical Sonography; Prisila Martinez, Early Childhood Education; Timothy Smith, Computer Programming Technology;

Houston - Maddox Clouse, Computer Science Division, Computer Programming Department, Applied Mathematics Department, Hall of Fame;

Iuka - Austin Cutrer, Janis Howell Nursing Excellence Award; Cole Richardson, Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Workforce Team;

Kosciusko - Natalie Ryals, Journalism Department, Hall of Fame, Miss ICC;

Louisville - Teresa Holdiness, Health Information Technology;

Mantachie - Kaylin Perry, Criminal Justice Department;

Marietta - Cassidy Edwards, Music Department;

McCool - Jalynn Black, Theatre Department;

Mooreville - Mary Puckett, English Department;

Nettleton - Allyson Johnson, Phi Theta Kappa Mississippi All-Academic Second Team, Hall of Fame, PTK Beta Tau Sigma Chapter Order of the Golden Key; Rilee Maxwell, Associate Degree Nursing, Hall of Fame; Payne Hairald, History Department, Geography Department;

Oxford - Amanda Fortner, Ernest Ruth Agnew Spirit of Giving (Associate Degree Nursing); Jon Lamar, Mary

Walden Professionalism in Nursing Award;

Pontotoc - Addison Clements, Fine Arts Division; Amanda Orman, Paralegal Technology; Amyah Pegues, Computer Networking and Cybersecurity; Analyse McMillen, Computer Science Department; Gracie Henley, Health, Physical Education and Recreation Division; Baylie Gann, Respiratory Care Technology; Eli Baker, Business Administration Division; Eric Hinton Automotive Technology; Bailey Cox, Accounting Department; Jamailya Cummings, Hall of Fame; Faith Brown, Modern Foreign Language; Marlee Hoing, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Hall of Fame; Samira Brewer, Robotics and Automation Technology; Crossland Malone, Mississippi Highway Patrol CORE graduate, Business Statistics Department;

Saltillo - Charles Russo, Surgical Technology; Mary Belle Burg, English Department; Matthew Armstrong, Mississippi Highway Patrol CORE graduate; Memory Willingham, Larry Loden Associate Degree Nursing Hall of Fame award; Jaden Willis, Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Workforce Second Team;

Shannon - Alanna Arledge, Phi Theta Kappa Cutturini, Prochaska and Hoots Service Award (Upsilon Sigma);

Destiny Buchanan, Business and Marketing Management Technology; Nicole Vasquez, Physical Therapist Assistant Technology; Dale Earnest, Pre-

cision Machining Technology;

Smithville - Aleena Gregory, Economics Department;

Tremont - Scarlett Garrison, Mathematics Division and Phi Theta Kappa Wilburn Outstanding Officer Award, Upsilon Sigma;

Tupelo - Caleb Bowers, Phi Theta Kappa Outstanding Member, Beta Tau Sigma; James Tallent, Diesel Equipment Technology; Jasmer Coleman, Hall of Fame; Jordan Franks, Robotics and Automation Technology; Laura Thorne, Associate Degree Nursing;

Sennett Watkins, Phi Theta Kappa Beta Tau Sigma Chapter Outstanding Officer; Sydney Ladd, Art Department; Wes May, Phi Theta Kappa Upsilon Sigma Chapter McCormick Award of Distinction, Hall of Fame, Physics Department, Yzameen Alwaisi, Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Second Team, Beta Tau Sigma Officer of Distinction, Hall of Fame;

Vardaman - Michael Cruz, Psychology Department;

Vina, Ala. - Braiden Holcombe, Phi Theta Kappa All-Mississippi Academic Second Team, Hall of Fame, Mr. ICC, Public Speaking Department; Kent Humphries, Chemistry Department, Phi Theta Kappa Upsilon Sigma Outstanding President;

Walnut - Sarah Hill, Emergency Medical Sciences; and

Weir - Laken Busby, Radiologic Technology.

The public is invited to attend.

Exploring careers

Members of Itawamba Community College's STEM Club visit the Tennessee Valley Authority Wilson Dam in Muscle Shoals, Ala., Apr. 4. The club was the beneficiary of a TVA grant to provide such learning experiences associated with STEM careers.



Welding month from page eleven

According to Lewis, approximately 80,000 welding jobs are expected to be filled annually between now and 2029.

Just what do welders do? There is more to welding than joining metal elements with the help of numerous tools, Lewis noted. They study and understand specific sketches, blueprints and instructions, raw structure/material analysis to determine appropriate methods required; use appropriate tools depending on the chosen method and maintain equipment and tools to meet the requirements. Lewis said that there are about 100 welding methods such as gas tungsten, shielded metal and gas metal, which he teaches in ICC's program. He also explained that welders use a variety of different types of tools including electric and manual equipment, but sometimes they combine tools for proper job performance.

Lewis said that aspiring welders should be detail oriented; have physical strength, stamina and manual dexterity; and both technical and spatial-orientation skills.

Among potential employers are building and bridge construction, manufacturing, aerospace industries, gas and oil field power plants and refineries, shipbuilding and auto/motorcycle fabrication and repair.

ICC's program is selective admission, which means there are a limited number of openings. The deadline for application to the fall class is May 30. Email careereducation@iccms.edu for more information.

One of THE BEST From page two



One of the most memorable, but meditative experiences that I had was the Healing Walk led by mental health therapist, Angie Herring. It was revitalizing to be with nature! It's true that one of the best ways to combat stress is by spending time outside.

Being an ICC student has contributed immensely not only to my ed-

ucation but also to my individual growth. I've done things I never imagined I'd do, met so many awesome individuals and learned more about who I am. Words cannot begin to express the gratitude that I feel from being an ICC student. If I had the chance to do it all over again, I absolutely would!

YOU BELONG HERE!

ICC Athletics on the Move

CAMPUS SPORTS

CHIEFTAIN/Page 12.....April 28, 2025



Not 'just another day' Collier hits 700 win milestone

Staff Reports

The moment didn't come with fireworks. There was no confetti or fanfare. For Coach Rick Collier, it was just another win on another spring day and another step in a career built on consistency, character and dominance.

ELITE COMPANY

With the Indians' 16-7 game 1 win over Hinds, Apr. 19, Collier reached his 700th win as head baseball coach at ICC. It's a number that places him in elite company across the state and adds another chapter to a career that has become the gold standard for the ICC baseball program.

Collier wasn't one to focus on the milestone.

'NEVER ABOUT ME'

"It's never been about me," he said. "I've never hit a baseball since I've been coaching here at ICC. I've never caught one. I've never pitched one. I just let all these guys get after it and this moment is about all those guys that earned those 700 wins."

Collier took over the Indians in 2002, and it didn't take long for the program to take shape under his leadership. His first win came on February 13, 2003, his very first game as head coach, a 2-1 win on the road at Southwest Mississippi. Since then, Collier has stacked wins with an unmatched passion for the game.

In 2016, he passed Hall of



During his induction into ICC's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2015, former ICC baseball player Tim Dillard visits with ICC head coach Rick Collier, right, and his son, Stone, who is now playing for the Indians.

Fame coach Roy Cresap to become ICC's all-time winningest coach with his 452nd victory, a 10-3 win over Meridian. He reached his 500th win in 2018 with a 5-1 win over Snead State. Then in 2021, he earned win number 600 in a back-and-forth battle with nationally ranked Pearl River, a 10-8 triumph over the No. 2 team in the country.

MORE ACCOLADES

The accolades have followed him at every turn. Three conference championships. Two NJCAA Region 23 titles. An NJCAA Super Regional championship. An appearance

in the 2003 NJCAA World Series where the Indians finished fifth in the nation. A school-record 46 wins and a 22-game win streak that same season. Eighteen playoff appearances. Eleven of those came in consecutive seasons from 2003 to 2013.

The 2009 season stands out as one of his most dominant runs. ICC captured the MACJC title by scoring 47 runs on 52 hits over the course of just three games. That same year, Collier was named Conference Coach of the Year. It wasn't the first time. He also earned that honor in 2003 and

2019, along with Region 23 Coach of the Year and DII Central District Coach of the Year recognition.

GREATEST IMPACT

But his greatest impact might not be in the wins, titles or trophies. It's in the players who have gone on to play at the next level. Every single year of his tenure, Collier has helped at least one player sing with an SEC or another NJCAA Division I program.

MLB IMPACT

More than 20 have been selected in the MLB Draft, including former ICC standouts Tim Dillard, Jeremy King,

Greg McKissick, Jared Wesson, Andy Rice, Desmond Jennings, Charley Williams, Chris Hilliard, Delvin Zinn, Tyreque Reed, JT Salter, Steffon Moore, Jackson Lancaster, Kyle Crigger and Will Verdung, along with John Gatlin, Blake Bennett and Houston Harding signing as an undrafted free agent.

A former All-American at both ICC and Delta State, Collier was inducted into the Delta State Sports Hall of Fame in 2003. And yet, through all of his success, he has never made the story about him.

WE'RE A FAMILY

"It's tough to get a bunch of guys with different backgrounds from different places to play together as a team," said Dillard in a 2020 interview about his career at ICC. "Rick was able to do that. I think the reason was everybody felt like we were in it together. It was all about us and we felt like we were a family."

He still shows up early. He still watches the way his players carry themselves when no one is watching. And he still expects his team to play hard, play smart and represent the program the right way.

Seven hundred wins is a milestone. But for Collier, it's never been about the destination. It's been about building something that lasts.

And, at ICC, he's done exactly that.

#RollTribe

Tribe talk

BILLY MILLENDER

Chieftain Staff

The Masters Tournament, held annually at the prestigious Augusta National Golf Club in Georgia, is more than just a golf tournament. It's an institution. It is one of the most anticipated sporting spectacles of the year, drawing the world's top golfers, passionate fans and millions of television viewers who tune in to witness one of the sport's most sacred traditions.

It's an event that shapes the landscape of golf, not just for the players but for fans who gather to experience the magic of Augusta. The Masters is unlike any other tournament in the world. While the other three major championships, the U.S. Open, the British Open and the PGA Championship, are often held at rotating venues, the Master's remains firmly rooted in its home at Augusta National. This consistency provides a unique narrative with the same challenging course each year acting as a timeless-

battleground where history is made. For golfers, winning at Augusta is the pinnacle of achievement, a victory that cements their place in golf lore. The green jacket, awarded to the winner, symbolizes more than just a victory; it signifies belonging to an exclusive fraternity of golfing legends. Names like Jack Nicklaus, Phil Mickelson, Tiger Woods and now Rory McIlroy are forever linked with the tournament, their careers shaped by their success at Augusta.

The event demands skill, composure and heart, a test of a golfer's character and ability under pressure. For the players, the Masters represents both an opportunity and a tremendous burden. The pressure to perform is unlike anything they face in other tournaments.

The history and tradition of Augusta loom large, with every shot taken and every putt sunk carrying the weight of generations of golfers who have walked those fairways before them. Players often speak of Augusta's unique atmosphere, a reverence that heightens their awareness and performance. Some players thrive in this tournament, using the crowd's energy and the course's challenge to elevate their game, while others crack under pressure, the stakes too high for them to handle.

It's this human element that makes the master's so captivating, which is what Rory McIlroy did to finally get the camel off his back to win the big one. For the fans who attend, the Masters offers something unparalleled. The chance to witness history in person, to walk the hallowed grounds of Augusta National and to experience the tournament up close is a dream for golf enthusiasts. The event's exclusivity, from the limited number of tickets to the restrictions on commercial activity, helps maintain an atmosphere of reverence. The fans who secure tickets are treated to an experience that feels like a privilege, as they walk the same paths trod by legends and take in the beauty of the perfectly manicured greens and towering pines. The experience of attending the Masters goes beyond golf. It's about immersing oneself in a tradition that has become a part of the very fabric of the sport. Fans treasure the annual pilgrimage to Augusta with many returning year after year. The atmosphere is palpable, an electric blend of excitement, nostalgia and awe. The excitement isn't just about watching the best players compete. It's about witnessing something deeply ingrained in the golf culture. The Masters is more than just a sporting event. It is an emblem of everything that makes golf special. It's tradition, challenges and ability to create unforgettable moments.

Perhaps that's how ICC athletics is...to former players and fans. Such events as Homecoming and alumni days offer the opportunity to reacquaint them with ICC, with their teammates and others who played their sport. Let's keep that tradition alive.



Tim Dillard was drafted by MLB, but chose to play for ICC Coach Rick Collier.

Dillard represents ICC in MACC Sports Hall of Fame

Staff Reports

Former Major League Baseball pitcher and Itawamba Community College standout Tim Dillard was inducted into the Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame Tuesday during a ceremony at the Clyde Muse Center on the Hinds Community College campus in Pearl.

Dillard, a Saltillo native, was selected by the Milwaukee Brewers in the 15th round of the 2001 MLB Draft, but chose to play for Coach Rick Collier at Itawamba Community College (2002-03). His sophomore season was one for the record books, as he posted an 11-0 pitching record, including key victories in the NJCAA Region 23 Tournament, the NJCAA Super Regional and the NJCAA World Series against defending national champion Parkland College. His stellar performance earned him MACJC All-State, NJCAA All-Region 23 and NJCAA Player of the Year honors.

Dillard was drafted again by the Brewers in 2002 and began his professional career in 2003. He quickly made a name for himself, earning the Brewers' Minor League Pitcher of the Year award in 2005 while with the Class A-Advanced Brevard County Manatees. In 2006, he was recognized as a mid-season All-Star for the Double-A Huntsville Stars.

Dillard made his Major League debut with the Milwaukee Brewers in 2008 and played parts of four seasons (2008-12) at the MLB level, appearing

in 73 games as a relief pitcher. He also became a franchise leader for the Triple-A Nashville Sounds, holding records for wins (48), games pitched (242), innings pitched (710) and strikeouts (437).

Following his professional playing career, which included time with the Lancaster Barnstormers, Colorado Springs Sky Sox and the Milwaukee Milkmen, Dillard transitioned to broadcasting. He currently serves as a pregame and postgame analyst for Milwaukee Brewers telecasts and provides color commentary for select games.

Dillard resides in Nashville, Tenn., with his wife, Erin, and their three children, Brooks, Camryn and Hayes.

The Mississippi Community College Sports Hall of Fame honors outstanding athletes, coaches and administrators who have made significant contributions to Mississippi's two-year college athletic programs. The annual induction ceremony celebrates the legacy of those who have left a lasting impact on junior college sports in the state.

Previous ICC inductees include Mark Bray, Joe Ferguson, Larry Gann, Bud Davis, Buster Davis, Linda Partlow, Paul Johnson, Roy Cresap, Mike Eaton, Jim Walden, Carrie Ball-Williamson, Tim Bowens, Billy Caples, Nanci Gray, Dr. Keta Armstrong, James "Booty" Sloan, Jimmy Guy McDonald, Butch Thompson, Gerald Goodman, Ron Hill and Pernell McPhee.

Itawamba Community College Sports...

BASEBALL

4.29 Miss. Delta 2/5 p.m.

ON THE
SCHEDULE

*For the
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2025

INDIAN WEEK

MONDAY

FREE Loaded Teas/Energy Drinks

7:30 a.m.
Academic and Student Center
Tupelo Campus

FREE Biscuits

7:30 a.m.
Training Entrance Lobby
Belden Center

SGA Cookout

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Crane Pavilion
Fulton Campus

WEDNESDAY

FREE Loaded Teas and Energy Drinks

7:30 a.m.
Crane Pavilion
Fulton Campus

Health Science Food Truck Lunch

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. **Featuring Jo's Cafe**
Health Science Education Center
Tupelo Campus
**FIRST 300 HEALTH SCIENCE STUDENTS
EAT FREE!**

Belden Cookout

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Belden Warehouse

Sophomore Sendoff

5 - 8 p.m.
Band Field
Fulton Campus

TUESDAY

FREE Donuts

7:30 a.m.
Training Entrance Lobby
Belden Center

SGA Cookout

12 - 1 p.m.
Behind Academic and Student Center
Tupelo Campus

Silent Disco

8 - 11 p.m.
The Yard at Student Activities
Fulton Campus

THURSDAY

FREE Donuts

7:30 a.m.
Crane Pavilion
Fulton Campus

FREE Donuts

7:30 a.m.
Academic and Student Center
Tupelo Campus

Belden Cookout

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Belden Warehouse

APRIL 28 - MAY 1



getinvolved@iccms.edu